



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

CITY OF LAMAR RECEIVES \$30,300 GRANT FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LAMAR BUSINESS PARK

Jerry Finley, Rural Development Manager of Springfield, Missouri, for USDA Rural Development presented a mock check in the amount of \$30,300 to the City of Lamar representing a Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) to improve the parking lot located at 1401 Maple Street, Lamar, Missouri. The Lamar Sheltered Workshop's 25 employees and visitors will benefit from the asphalt and concrete improvements which will be in compliance with the American Disability Act and Section 504 accessibility standards.

City Administrator, Lynn Calton stated, "The City of Lamar appreciates the assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, in providing the finances for improvements to the parking lot located at 1401 Maple Street in the Lamar Business Park."

"The needs of the community matched up nicely with the selection criteria for the RBEG," said Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. "With the tough competition for these funds, the selection of this project is a real tribute to the dedication and hard work of the partners involved".

Lynn Calton serves a dual role as City Administrator and the Project Engineer with Blevins Asphalt Construction Company from Mt. Vernon serving as the General Contractor. Construction is scheduled for completion within 60 calendar days.

"U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Ike Skelton have been, and continue to be, strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians by making available federal funds for these kinds of rural projects," said Branum. "This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiatives of being committed to the future of rural communities."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Vickie Umfleet, Rural Development Specialist, at 688 S State Highway B, Suite 400, Springfield MO, 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to vickie.umfleet@mo.usda.gov.



Left to Right: Front Row: Terry Campbell, Senator Talent's Representative; Patrick Morrow, Senator Bond's Representative; Judd Chestnut, Lamar Sheltered Workshop; Keith Devine, Mayor; Marsha Doyle, Lamar Sheltered Workshop; Richard Scroggs, Lamar Sheltered Workshop Board. Back Row: Robert Hagedorn, Congressman Skelton's Representative; Jerry Finley, Rural Development Manager; John Adams, Lamar Sheltered Workshop; Ed Emery, Missouri District #126 State Representative; Craig Finley, Jim Hillman, Jason Bartlett, Lamar Sheltered Workshop Board; Jim Hembree, Community Development Manager.

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